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French loans in Hausa¹

Hausa lexicon has been the object of many studies regarding loans. For example we have many articles on different languages that have loaned words to Hausa: Arabic (Baldi 1988, 1995, 2008; Greenberg 1947; Hiskett 1965), English (Ikara 1975; Leben 1996; Muhammad 1968; Salim 1981), Fulfulde (Baldi 1992), Kanuri (Baldi 2002; Greenberg 1960), Tuareg (Gouffé 1974) and other languages which influenced Hausa. However, in the latest bibliography of Chadic and Hausa linguistics (Newman 2013) no mention is made of French loans in Hausa. Hausa spoken in Niger (a former French colony) is full of loanwords not common in standard Hausa (i.e. Hausa spoken in Nigeria) and many of these words are from French (Moussa-Aghali 1994 & 1999). In the first paper devoted to this topic, I list some of these words, which of course do not form a complete set. Apart from single words, I also include three compounds: *aikin sàřũshì*, *aikin sàřbìs* and *ɗan bũjwà* which are calques only partially formed by a French word. I consider them interesting because they are worth future analysis to discover their semantic, phonological and morphological rules.

Niger Hausa	English	French
<i>àbiyàsò</i>	‘aerodrome’	< aviation ²
<i>àbiyàtār</i>	‘tee-shirt’	< ? (maillot d’)aviateur
<i>àbiyó</i>	‘aeroplane’	< avion

¹ I would like to thank Professor Nina Pawlak for her invitation to contribute to this Festschrift, dedicated to our colleague Professor Stanisław Piłaszewicz and for proposing this topic, after having presented my Hausa dictionary to the press at **Africa Days** at the University of Warsaw, organized by the Department of African Languages and Cultures and the African Studies Research Group (6–9 May, 2013). I should also thank Professor Henry Tourneux (CNRS, Paris) for his help to identify some French etymons.

² Local French for *aéroport*.

<i>àbòkà</i>	‘lawyer’	< avocat
<i>aikin sàrbís</i>	‘restaurant service’	< service restaurant
<i>aikin sàrùshì</i>	‘civil service’	< service civil
<i>àkàsìdàn</i>	‘car accident’	< accident de voiture
<i>àlbītīr</i>	‘referee’	< arbitre
<i>àlimētì</i>	‘match’	< allumette
<i>àlkwál</i>	‘alcohol’	< alcool
<i>àmàr̀tìsàr̀</i>	‘shock absorber’	< amortisseur
<i>àmbàsád</i>	‘embassy’	< ambassade
<i>àmbàsàdàr̀</i>	‘ambassador’	< ambassadeur
<i>àmbìr̀iyàjì</i>	‘clutch’	< embrayage
<i>àmbìtè</i>	‘reception’	< invité
<i>àmfàn</i>	‘breakdown’	< en panne
<i>àmful</i>	‘light bulb’	< ampoule
<i>àndīr̀</i>	‘building’	< en dur ³
<i>antamfàr̀ētì</i>	‘interpreter’	< interprète
<i>antaṛ̀ē / antaṛ̀ētì</i>	‘retirement’	< en retraite
<i>àr̀àzùwàr̀</i>	‘razor’	< rasoir
<i>àr̀ēbuwàl!</i>	‘goodbye!’	< au revoir!
<i>àr̀èzùwàr̀</i>	‘watering can’	< arrosoir
<i>àskàliyè</i>	‘stairs’	< escalier
<i>àskìlâtàr̀</i>	‘accelerator’	< accélérateur
<i>àsìlò</i>	‘pen’	< stylo
<i>bàkàns</i>	‘holidays’	< vacance
<i>bàlìs</i>	‘suitcase’	< valise
<i>balshè</i>	‘wound’	< blessé
<i>bansīr̀!</i>	‘good evening!’	< bonsoir!
<i>bàsḡà</i>	‘motor scooter’	< Vespa ⁴
<i>bātūr̀</i>	‘battery’	< batterie
<i>bēṛ̀</i>	‘drinking glass’	< verre
<i>bētán</i>	‘concrete’	< béton
<i>bìbìlòtèk</i>	‘library’	< bibliothèque
<i>bìdanjì</i>	‘engine oil change’	< vidange
<i>bìdò</i>	‘oil can’	< bidon
<i>bìk</i>	‘biro’	< bic ⁵
<i>bìlètán</i>	‘bulletin’	< bulletin
<i>bìnēgīr̀</i>	‘vinegar’	< vinaigre

³ From the expression *construit en dur* ‘a permanent structure (constructed with cement)’ as opposed to *construit en terre* (lit. constructed with earth).

⁴ From Italian via French.

⁵ Trade name of a ball-point pen (from Marcel Bich’s name).

<i>bìrìkè</i>	‘lighter’	< briquet
<i>bìrō/ bùrō</i>	‘office’	< bureau
<i>bìs</i>	‘screw’	< vis
<i>bìshôn</i>	‘cork’	< bouchon
<i>bìtôn</i>	‘button’	< bouton
<i>bìyè</i>	‘banknote’	< billet
<i>bìyē</i>	‘beer’	< bière
<i>bòlân</i>	‘steering wheel’	< volant
<i>bòmbó</i>	‘sweets’	< bonbons
<i>bōtì</i>	‘boots’	< bottes
<i>bùjì</i>	‘sparkplug’	< bougie d’allumage
<i>bùl</i>	‘bowls’	< boules
<i>bùlbít</i>	‘mineral water’	< ? Volcic ⁶
<i>bùrō</i>	‘office’	< bureau
<i>bùrús</i>	‘scholarship’	< bourse
<i>bùshô</i>	‘cork’	< bouchon
<i>bùtô</i>	‘button’	< bouton
<i>buwāti</i>	‘tin can’	< boîte de conserve
<i>bwàcī</i>	‘car’	< voiture
<i>càkòlà</i>	‘chocolate’	< chocolat
<i>dàkìlô</i>	‘typist’	< dactylo
<i>dārā</i>	‘cloth’	< drap
<i>dārāktār</i>	‘manager’	< directeur
<i>dēfilē</i>	‘parade’	< défilé
<i>dēftē</i>	‘deputy’	< député
<i>dīftē</i>	‘deputy’; ‘senator’	< député
<i>Dimāshì / Dùmāshì</i>	‘Sunday’	< dimanche
<i>dìnāmô</i>	‘dynamo’	< dynamo
<i>dīrāksô</i>	‘steering of car’	< direction
<i>dīrāktār</i>	‘headmaster’	< directeur
<i>dīrāktīrīs</i>	‘headmistress’	< directrice
<i>dōbùl</i>	‘double’	< double
<i>dōsē</i>	‘office file’	< dossier
<i>dùbân / dùbbân</i>	‘wine’	< du vin ⁷
<i>dùbulé</i>	‘overtaking’	< doubler

⁶ Name of a mineral water brand.

⁷ It is interesting to see that the French expression *du vin* to indicate wine is entered in many African languages: cf. Swahili *duvai* < Malagasy *divái*. (Baldi 2009: 613). “The Malagasy word for ‘oil’ is *diloilo*, which can only be understood if one remembers French *de l’huile*. Similarly we find *dipilò* ‘shot for a shotgun’ from French *du plomb*, *dipoàvatra* ‘pepper’ from *du poivre*, *dité* ‘tea’ from *du thé* and *divái* ‘wine’ from *du vin*” (Knappert 1970: 84–85).

<i>dùwân</i>	‘customs’	< douane
<i>dùgùnye</i>	‘customs official’	< douanier
<i>dân bújwà</i>	‘middle-class person’	< bourgeois
<i>èkuŕú</i>	‘screw’	< écrou
<i>èkwâl</i>	‘primary school’	< école
<i>èlibāji</i>	‘veterinary clinic’	< élevage
<i>èlikâptâr</i>	‘helicopter’	< hélicoptère
<i>èsanshì</i>	‘petrol’	< essence
<i>fàkê</i>	‘packet’	< paquet
<i>fàlá</i>	‘platter’	< plat
<i>fàlìs militâr</i>	‘military police’	< police militaire
<i>fangil</i>	‘safety pin’	< épingle (de sûreté)
<i>fânô</i>	‘road sign’	< panneau (de signalisation)
<i>fâns</i>	‘pliers’	< pince
<i>fântîr</i>	‘paint’	< peinture
<i>fanyì</i>	‘comb’	< peigne
<i>fârêfê / fârĕfê</i>	‘administrative prefect’	< préfet
<i>fârĕfâsâr</i>	‘professor’	< professeur
<i>fârmànkàlâsh</i>	‘private’	< première classe
<i>fârmàsì</i>	‘pharmacy’	< pharmacie
<i>fârmî</i>	‘permit’	< permis
<i>fârtàmànê / fârtamāni</i>	‘purse’	< porte-monnaie
<i>fârtî</i>	‘party’	< parti
<i>fârzîdân</i>	‘president’	< président
<i>fâs</i>	‘post office’	< (bureau de) poste
<i>fàsàjê</i>	‘passenger’	< passager
<i>fas dà fàlìs</i>	‘police station’	< poste de police
<i>fàsê</i>	‘driving test’	< passer ⁸
<i>fàsê</i>	‘ironing’	< repasser
<i>fàsĕfâr</i>	‘passport’	< passeport
<i>fâtantî</i>	‘trading licence’	< patente
<i>fâzgô</i>	‘passport’	< passeport
<i>fêlî / fêlù</i>	‘shovel’	< pelle
<i>fêrân</i>	‘brake’	< frein
<i>fil</i>	‘electric wire’	< fil électrique
<i>filântô</i>	‘messenger’; ‘orderly’	< planton
<i>finê</i>	‘tyre’	< pneu
<i>finê sêkûr</i>	‘spare tyre’	< pneu de secours
<i>fîrîm</i>	‘retirement pay’	< prime

⁸ From the expression *passer le permis* ‘take driver’s test’.

<i>fīrīmār</i>	‘premier’	< ? primaire
<i>fīrīs</i>	‘plug’	< prise (électrique)
<i>fīrshidān</i>	‘fridge’	< Frigidaire ⁹
<i>fish</i>	‘electric plug’	< fiche
<i>fistān</i>	‘piston’	< piston
<i>fistòlè</i>	‘pistol’	< pistolet
<i>gābārdīn</i>	‘gabardine’	< gabardine
<i>gālās</i>	‘ice’	< glace
<i>gārād</i>	‘rank’	< grade
<i>gārādābū</i>	‘salute’	< garde à vous
<i>gārādānyē</i>	‘guard’	< gardien
<i>gārēfē</i>	‘grafted’	< greffé
<i>gātō</i>	‘cake’	< gâteau
<i>gāzūwāl</i>	‘diesel oil’	< “gazoual ¹⁰ ”
<i>gōlè</i>	‘goalkeeper’	< goal
<i>gùdūrō</i>	‘tar’	< goudron
<i>guhūrnamà</i>	‘governor’	< gouverneur
<i>gùhūrnumà</i>	‘government’	< gouvernement
<i>gwālāf</i>	‘light bulb’	< ? goyave ¹¹
<i>hīyās</i>	‘minibus’	< (Toyota) Hiace ¹²
<i>hōlō</i>	‘tee-shirt’	< polo
<i>hùlātīr</i>	‘plaster cast’	< plâtre
<i>hūr̄tumāmì</i>	‘purse’	< porte-monnaie
<i>hūr̄ù / hūr̄ù</i>	‘oven’; ‘kiln’	< four
<i>hwāké</i>	‘packet’	< paquet
<i>hwālā</i>	‘take-away food’	< ? à emporter
<i>hwāmāt</i>	‘cosmetic cream’	< pommade
<i>hwànàtīr</i>	‘window’	< fenêtre
<i>hwārmāshī</i>	‘chemist’s’	< pharmacie
<i>hwārmātūr’èkālār</i>	‘zipper’	< fermeture éclair
<i>ilēri</i>	‘oil mill’	< huilerie
<i>inār̄ji</i>	‘electricity’	< énergie
<i>ir̄ànīyān</i>	‘uranium’	< uranium
<i>isanshī</i>	‘petrol’	< essence
<i>isfārādārā</i>	‘plaster’	< plâtre
<i>istāji</i>	‘course’	< stage
<i>istilō</i>	‘pen’	< stylo

⁹ Name of a brand.

¹⁰ Often pronunciation for *gazole*.

¹¹ Probably due to analogy for its form.

¹² A model of minibus.

<i>itìnà</i>	‘lieutenant’	< lieutenant
<i>jànàràl</i>	‘general’	< général
<i>jànàs</i>	‘youth party’	< jeunesse
<i>jandàrmà</i>	‘police officer’	< gendarme
<i>jàndàrmàrì</i>	‘police force’	< gendarmerie
<i>jàrdàn</i>	‘park’	< jardin
<i>jàstís</i>	‘court of law’	< justice
<i>jíf</i>	‘skirt’	< jupe
<i>jìrkàl</i>	‘petrol can’	< jerry can ¹³
<i>kābìl</i>	‘cable’	< cable
<i>kàbìn</i>	‘lorry cab’	< cabine
<i>kādō</i>	‘gift for children’	< cadeau
<i>kàfāràn</i>	‘corporal’	< caporal
<i>kàfê</i>	‘café’; ‘coffee’	< café
<i>kàffōtì</i>	‘overcoat’	< capote ¹⁴
<i>kàftàn</i>	‘captain’	< capitaine
<i>kàhō</i>	‘car bonnet’	< capot
<i>kàhōràn / kàhwāràn</i>	‘corporal’	< caporal
<i>kāl</i>	‘wedge’	< cale
<i>kàlándìrê</i>	‘calendar’	< calendrier
<i>kàlàs</i>	‘class’	< classe
<i>kàlàsōrì</i>	‘coachwork’	< carrosserie
<i>kàlìsō</i>	‘slip’; ‘underwear’	< caleçon
<i>kàmyō</i>	‘truck’	< camion
<i>kār</i>	‘coach’, ‘bus’	< car
<i>kārāmgàlàs</i>	‘ice cream’	< crème glacée
<i>kàrcé</i>	‘town ward’	< quartier
<i>kārê</i>	‘quarter of a town’	< carré
<i>kārōtì</i>	‘carrot’	< carotte
<i>kārte</i>	‘card’	< carte
<i>kār̀tì</i>	‘ticket’	< carte
<i>kàrtìdànditê</i>	‘identity card’	< carte d’identité
<i>kàrtō</i>	‘box’	< carton
<i>kàrtūshì</i>	‘cartridge’	< cartouche
<i>kàrtūshì</i>	‘carton’	< cartouche
<i>kàsārōlì</i>	‘saucepan’	< casserole
<i>kasò</i>	‘prison’	< cachot
<i>kàushú</i>	‘rubber’	< caoutchouc

¹³ English word borrowed in French.

¹⁴ Olive-drab.

<i>kàyē</i>	'exercise book'	< cahier
<i>kilē</i>	'key'	< clé
<i>kilīshē</i>	'film negative'; 'transparency'	< cliché
<i>kilīyōtān</i>	'indicator light'	< clignotant
<i>kilò / kilō</i>	'kilogram'	< kilogramme
<i>kīrīk</i>	'jack'	< cric
<i>kizīnyē</i>	'stove'	< cuisinière
<i>kòmbùkàsó</i>	'summons'	< convocation
<i>kùmàndān</i>	'captain', 'commandant'	< commandant
<i>kuř nòmāl</i>	'normal course'	< cours normal
<i>kūrān</i>	'(electrical) current'	< courant
<i>kūrō</i>	'mail'	< courrier
<i>kūrūs</i>	'race-course'	< course
<i>kùtùbāl</i>	'soccer'	< football
<i>kùtùhān</i>	'kick'	< coup de poing
<i>kwàddārūt</i>	'highway code'	< code de route
<i>kwàlgāt</i>	'Colgate'	< Colgate
<i>kwàmbīn</i>	'trick'	< combine
<i>kwàmbùkàsó</i>	'warrant'	< convocation
<i>kwàmī</i>	'assistant'	< commis
<i>kwàmítē</i>	'committee'	< comité
<i>kwàmsàriyà / kwàmsēriyà</i>	'police station'	< commissariat
<i>kwànjē</i>	'leave', 'time off'	< congé
<i>kwàntār</i>	'meter'	< compteur
<i>kwàntiř-mētiř</i>	'foreman', 'supervisor'	< contremaître
<i>kwànyāk</i>	'cognac'	< cognac
<i>kyārsē</i>	'betting'	< tiercé
<i>kyās</i>	'case'	< caisse
<i>kyāsīyē</i>	'cashier'	< caissier
<i>lākīlē</i>	'key'	< la clé
<i>lākkwāl</i>	'primary school'	< l'école
<i>lākuřù</i>	'recruit'	< recrue
<i>lakwàtārò</i>	'hospital aide'	< docteur
<i>lām</i>	'blade'	< lame
<i>lanhò / lanhù</i>	'tax'	< impôt
<i>lātiřī</i>	'electricity'	< électricité
<i>lētār</i>	'litre'	< litre
<i>lētār</i>	'letter'	< lettre
<i>libāřà</i>	'(mil.) service book'	< livret
<i>līlò</i>	'nylon thread'	< nylon
<i>līmònāt</i>	'lemonade'	< limonade

<i>lîsê</i>	‘secondary school’	< lycée
<i>lishidân</i>	‘warrant officer’	< adjudant
<i>lîtâr</i>	‘litre’	< litre
<i>lòkotoŕò</i>	‘hospital aide’; ‘doctor’	< docteur
<i>lòtârê</i>	‘lottery’	< loterie
<i>lùlèñ</i>	‘eyeglasses’	< lunettes
<i>luwul / luwuldàmòtâr</i>	‘engine oil’	< l’huile de moteur
<i>mádân</i>	‘modern girl’	< madame
<i>màjâr</i>	‘major’	< majeur
<i>mâlātì</i>	‘disease’	< maladie
<i>mal-gârê</i>	‘badly parked’	< mal garé
<i>mâlô</i>	‘melon’	< melon
<i>mândâ</i>	‘mandate’	< mandat
<i>màngazā</i>	‘shop’	< magasin
<i>mântô</i>	‘(over)coat’	< manteau
<i>mànyètô</i>	‘tape recorder’	< magnétophone
<i>mâs</i>	‘mallet’; ‘sledgehammer’	< masse (outil)
<i>mârtô</i>	‘hammer’	< marteau
<i>mâshîn</i>	‘writing machine’	< machine
<i>màsón</i>	‘mason’	< maçon
<i>mâtâlâ</i>	‘mattress’	< matelas
<i>mâtârñâl</i>	‘maternal’	< maternel
<i>mâtĩryāshì</i>	‘machine gun’	< mitrailleuse
<i>mēř</i>	‘mayor’	< maire
<i>mēřì</i>	‘town hall’	< mairie
<i>mētĩř / mēzĩř</i>	‘metre’	< mètre / mesure
<i>mĩdĩ</i>	‘midday’	< midi
<i>mĩkũřô</i>	‘microphone’	< microphone
<i>mĩliyò</i>	‘million’	< million
<i>mĩnizê</i>	‘carpenter’	< menuisier
<i>mòbilât</i>	‘moped’	< mobylette
<i>mòdâl</i>	‘model’	< modèle
<i>mòlò</i>	‘brick mould’	< moule
<i>mòtô</i>	‘motorbike’	< moto(cyclette)
<i>mûl</i>	‘mussel’	< moule
<i>mùnùwĩ</i>	‘midnight’	< minuit
<i>mûshe / mûshè</i>	‘official’; ‘Mr.’	< Monsieur
<i>mûsshuwâr</i>	‘handkerchief’	< mouchoir
<i>òfârlâr</i>	‘loudspeaker’	< haut-parleur
<i>òfêřê</i>	‘operation’	< opérer
<i>òpitàl</i>	‘hospital’	< hôpital
<i>òřanjì / ořanjì</i>	‘orange’	< orange

<i>pàṛèpé</i>	'prefect'	< préfet
<i>pàṛmì</i>	'driver's license'	< permis
<i>pàṛshák</i>	'bumper'	< pare-choc
<i>pàsàjé</i>	'passenger'	< passager
<i>pîl</i>	'flashlight battery'	< pile
<i>ṛàdìyó</i>	'radio'	< radio
<i>ṛaffò</i>	'rest'	< repos
<i>ṛàmārk</i>	'trailer'	< remorque
<i>ṛamfūwán</i>	'roundabout'	< rond-point
<i>ṛànyó</i>	'meeting'	< réunion
<i>ṛàzùwār</i>	'razor'	< rasoir
<i>ṛèshó</i>	'camping stove'	< réchaud
<i>ṛèsí</i>	'receipt'	< reçu
<i>ṛèsuwál</i>	'spring'	< ressort
<i>ṛìdó</i>	'curtain'	< rideau
<i>ṛób</i>	'dress'	< robe
<i>ṛóm</i>	'rum'	< rhum
<i>ṛòtí</i>	'roast'	< rôti
<i>ṛùgùbí</i>	'rugby'	< rugby
<i>sák / sakkò</i>	'sack'	< sac
<i>sàkòt</i>	'bag'	< sacoche
<i>saltē</i>	'dirt'	< salté
<i>sàmàṛá</i>	'sandals'	< samara
<i>sàmbàlmá</i>	'(mil.) assembly'	< rassemblement
<i>Sàmdí</i>	'Saturday'	< samedi
<i>sàmì</i>	'lorry'	< semi(-remorque)
<i>sàndìkà</i>	'trade union'	< syndicat
<i>sànhù</i>	'indifference'	< s'en fout
<i>santāṛī / sàntīṛ</i>	'belt'	< ceinture
<i>sàṛbēṛī</i>	'towel'	< serviette
<i>sàṛbīs</i>	'waitress'	< service
<i>sàṛdīn</i> ¹⁵	'sardine'	< sardine
<i>sàṛjān / sàṛsān</i>	'sergeant'	< sergent
<i>sàṛtīfikā</i>	'certificate'	< certificat
<i>sàṛūshè / sàṛūshī</i>	'military service'; 'department'	< service (militaire)
<i>sàyyé!</i>	'got it!'	< ça y est
<i>sè'èjè</i>	'junior secondary school'	< CEG, collège d'enseignement général
<i>sháf</i>	'boss', 'manager'	< chef

¹⁵ *Sardina pilchardus*.

<i>shàfò</i>	‘hat’	< chapeau
<i>shàmbūr</i>	‘air tube’	< chambre à air
<i>shàmḡāmā</i>	‘silencer’	< (tuyau d’) échappement
<i>shāf dà kwàmbā</i>	‘tank’	< char de combat
<i>shàṛjē</i>	‘charge’	< charge
<i>shàsī</i>	‘chassis’	< châssis
<i>shimī</i>	‘chemistry’	< chimie
<i>shinkū</i>	‘five’	< cinq
<i>sīhulē</i>	‘whistle’	< sifflet
<i>sīmā</i>	‘cement’	< ciment
<i>sinyē</i>	‘signature’	< signature
<i>sīrō</i>	‘syrup’	< sirop
<i>sītār</i>	‘cistern’, ‘tank’	< citerne
<i>sōdē</i>	‘solder’	< souder
<i>sōnē</i>	‘ringing’	< sonner
<i>sōsātī</i>	‘sock’	< chaussette
<i>suhulē</i>	‘whistle’	< sifflet
<i>sūlār</i>	‘cocky’	< saoulard (ivrogne)
<i>sullūrū</i>	‘cell’	< cellulaire
<i>sūtūwār</i>	‘palaver’; ‘talk’	< histoires
<i>tābīlī / tābūl</i>	‘table’	< table
<i>tālō</i>	‘heel’	< talon
<i>tambūr</i>	‘postage stamp’	< timbre(-poste)
<i>tāmē</i>	‘sieve’	< tamis
<i>tāmfō</i>	‘rubber stamp’	< tampon
<i>tāpī</i>	‘carpet’	< tapis
<i>tārgāl</i>	‘nylon’	< Tergal
<i>tikē</i>	‘ticket’	< ticket de caisse
<i>tīsī</i>	‘material’	< tissu
<i>tiyā</i>	‘twenty-one’	< ? (ving)t-et-un
<i>tiyō / tiyyō</i>	‘hose’; ‘tube’	< tuyau
<i>tuṛda’anshē</i>	‘hip size’	< tour de hanche
<i>tuṛdàḡātīṛīn</i>	‘bust size’	< tour de poitrine
<i>tuṛdātāyē</i>	‘waist size’	< tour de taille
<i>tūṛnābīs</i>	‘screwdriver’	< tournevis
<i>Ūt</i>	‘August’	< août
<i>zāzū</i>	‘the latest fashion’	< zizou
<i>zuzū</i>	‘judge’	< juge

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